

Now, it's unclear when the SEC is going to promulgate the rules under title IV, which will allow faster capital formation for smaller public companies. But like the job creators and the unemployed in my district, I'm tired of waiting. We're down here today urging Members to support legislation to require the SEC to do their job and implement the rules under this title by the end of October.

It's disheartening that we have to waste taxpayer dollars to do this, but I urge Members to vote in favor of H.R. 701. Madam Speaker, it's time for the SEC and all the regulators to stop stalling and stop ignoring the will and direction of Congress. It's time for regulators to do their jobs so Americans can go back to work and do their jobs, and it's time that Congress hold all regulators accountable.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) control the time for the remainder of the debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PITTENGER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. We're prepared to close.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I will await your closing.

Mr. MCHENRY. If the gentleman yields back his time, I will then close. As the majority party, we have the right to close.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to just simply close by saying that we should help small businesses.

When we have congressional Members acknowledging pop culture, as I did in committee, there is always a debate about that. But as Beyonce once said, "If you like it, you should have put a ring on it." Likewise, we should put a deadline on it. That's what this bill is all about.

As I close, I will not quote Jay-Z, but I will say we should help small businesses. And I ask my colleagues for their support as I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 701. While I applaud the bipartisan efforts of my colleagues to help small businesses grow and create jobs, the sting of the effects of financial deregulation is still too strong to allow me to support this bill.

I voted against similar legislation in the 112th Congress because I think raising the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Regulation A threshold is a bad idea. I note that Congress has raised this threshold five times already. In each of those instances, though, Congress approved a modest increase that was relative to the rate of inflation and the purchasing power of the dollar. H.R. 701 would mandate an unprecedented tenfold

increase in the current threshold of \$5 million to \$50 million. Such an increase strikes me as grotesquely large, especially since inflation has risen only 165 percent since 1980.

H.R. 701 will force the SEC—without additional appropriations—to do something that constitutes a tremendous incitement to perpetrate fraud on investors. I cannot in good conscience support this bill and urge my colleagues to vote it down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 701, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HOMES FOR HEROES ACT OF 2013

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 384) to establish the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by transferring the Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs to the Office of the Secretary of HUD, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 384

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homes for Heroes Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

(a) TRANSFER OF POSITION TO OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.—Section 4 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

"(1) POSITION.—There shall be in the Office of the Secretary a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs, who shall report directly to the Secretary.

"(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs shall be appointed based solely on merit and shall be covered under the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

"(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs shall be responsible for—

"(A) ensuring veterans have fair access to housing and homeless assistance under each program of the Department providing either such assistance;

"(B) coordinating all programs and activities of the Department relating to veterans;

"(C) serving as a liaison for the Department with the Department of Veterans Affairs, including establishing and maintaining

relationships with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

"(D) serving as a liaison for the Department, and establishing and maintaining relationships with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and officials of State, local, regional, and nongovernmental organizations concerned with veterans;

"(E) providing information and advice regarding—

"(i) sponsoring housing projects for veterans assisted under programs administered by the Department; or

"(ii) assisting veterans in obtaining housing or homeless assistance under programs administered by the Department;

"(F) coordinating with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in carrying out section 3 of the Homes for Heroes Act of 2013; and

"(G) carrying out such other duties as may be assigned to the Special Assistant by the Secretary or by law."

(b) TRANSFER OF POSITION IN OFFICE OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS.—On the date that the initial Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs is appointed pursuant to section 4(h)(2) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section, the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Programs in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be terminated.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON VETERANS HOMELESSNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, shall submit annually to the Committees of the Congress specified in subsection (b), together with the annual reports required by such Secretaries under section 203(c)(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11313(c)(1)), a supplemental report that includes the following information with respect to the preceding year:

(1) The same information, for such preceding year, that was included with respect to 2010 in the report by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs entitled "Veterans Homelessness: A Supplemental Report to the 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress".

(2) Information regarding the activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development relating to veterans during such preceding year, as follows:

(A) The number of veterans provided assistance under the housing choice voucher program for Veterans Affairs supported housing (VASH) under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)), the socioeconomic characteristics of such homeless veterans, and the number, types, and locations of entities contracted under such section to administer the vouchers.

(B) A summary description of the special considerations made for veterans under public housing agency plans submitted pursuant to section 5A of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437c-1) and under comprehensive housing affordability strategies submitted pursuant to section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12705).

(C) A description of the activities of the Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(D) A description of the efforts of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

and the other members of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to coordinate the delivery of housing and services to veterans.

(E) The cost to the Department of Housing and Urban Development of administering the programs and activities relating to veterans.

(F) Any other information that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs consider relevant in assessing the programs and activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development relating to veterans.

(b) COMMITTEES.—The Committees of the Congress specified in this subsection are as follows:

(1) The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

(3) The Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(4) The Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(5) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(6) The Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the record on H.R. 384, as amended, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I rise in support of H.R. 384, the Homes for Heroes Act of 2013.

This bill was introduced by my colleague from Texas, Congressman AL GREEN, who I had the pleasure of having serve alongside of me as the ranking member of the Oversight Investigation Subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee.

This bill would establish the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs within Housing and Urban Development to coordinate services provided to homeless veterans and to serve as HUD's liaison to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, State and local officials, and nonprofit service organizations. The position is currently in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs. This transfer highlights the importance of addressing the housing needs of our veterans.

H.R. 384 would also require HUD to submit a comprehensive annual report to Congress on the housing needs of homeless veterans and the steps undertaken by HUD to meet those needs.

□ 1300

H.R. 384 is a version, in part, of the Homes for Heroes Act of 2011, 2009, and

2008, all of which passed this House with well over 400 votes each.

As our service men and women continue to serve our country both here and abroad, the least we can do is ensure they have proper access to the services that are offered to them when they return.

This bill represents a step in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to support this worthy endeavor.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking Mr. HENSARLING, the chairperson of the committee. He gave me his word. He said this bill would come to the floor, and he has kept his word. I would like to thank the ranking member, Ms. WATERS. She committed to help with this bill. In fact, the genesis of this was a conversation I had with her, and she kept her word. I'd like to thank Mr. MCHENRY. Indeed, he and I do serve on Oversight and Investigations, and I appreciate very much his being here today to help us by managing this piece of legislation. I believe he and I will accomplish additional things on a bipartisan basis. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation.

I'd also like to thank the staff. While I will stand here and hopefully rise to the occasion, it really takes greater people to make the occasion. These people are the staffers that work long into the night on many occasions to try to reach a consensus on legislation. The staff really put a lot of time into this legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I think they should be complimented.

I especially would recognize one staffer in particular, Ms. Harmeet Kaur. This is her last week in our congressional office. She's a fellow, and I'm honored to say she worked with us on this piece of legislation.

Finally, I'd like to thank our veterans. Mr. Speaker, we stand here in the well of the House and enjoy many of the freedoms that we have because there are people who are willing to go to distant places, willing to risk their lives. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, many of them do not return the way they left. I just believe, Mr. Speaker, that the least a grateful Nation can do is make sure that when they return home, they return home to good jobs, the best health care, and good housing. I believe that it's almost sinful to see a veteran standing on the corner with a sign that reads, "Homeless, hungry." I believe that we ought to do everything within our power to help people who are willing to risk their lives for us.

I had the good fortune or misfortune, I'm not sure which, to pass by a VA hospital with a sign out front that read, "Come in and see the price of freedom."

Something that bears repeating: "Come in and see the price of freedom."

The price of freedom is quite high, Mr. Speaker. The price of freedom will

cost some in the prime of their lives things that you and I can never replace, money can't buy. And when money can't buy and you and I can't replace, the least we can do is all that we can. This is why we're asking that this Special Assistant be placed in the Office of the Secretary of HUD, that this be codified into the law; that it is not going to be easy now for this person to be replaced or this position to be removed.

And, Mr. Speaker, I must say also that HUD has been quite helpful. HUD has established a similar position in another part of the Department, but this would place a person in the office with the Secretary. And this person in the Office of the Secretary would try to help us with some of the statistics that we find abhorrent.

We find that there are approximately 76,000 to 144,000 veterans who are homeless. This is unacceptable. We find that on any night in 2012 about 62,000 veterans were homeless. This is unacceptable. And what this assistant would do is work with the homeless veterans organizations, serve as a liaison person to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, and with State and local officials, and not-for-profit organizations. This assistant will coordinate services with these various entities.

Mr. Speaker, this is not enough, but it is a start. It is a continuation, if you will, of what we've been trying to accomplish. Mr. Speaker, I beg that my colleagues—I would besiege them and implore them to please support this legislation because you're really supporting our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will remind us that the greatness of America is not going to be measured by how we treat people who live in the sweets of life. The greatness of America is often going to be judged by how we treat people who live in the streets of life. Too often, we have people who have served their country living in the streets of life. They literally live on the streets. It is time for us, the richest country in the world, where one out of every 100 persons is a millionaire, to acknowledge what our veterans have done to make it possible for us to enjoy these great and noble American ideals as extolled in the Pledge of Allegiance, liberty and justice for all, and in the Constitution, wherein we would have all people be created and treated equally.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just beg in closing that we, Members, take advantage of this opportunity to support our veterans. It is not something that is going to break the bank. In fact, it has a minimal impact on the deficit, but it can have a huge impact on our veterans.

I thank you, Mr. MCHENRY, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Wishing to close, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleagues to this bill. I would like to

congratulate my colleague, Mr. GREEN, on putting forward such a worthy proposal that is both sensible and at the same time deeply honors our most-treasured resource in this country, our returning veterans, to ensure they're well cared for. So I ask my colleagues to support this measure.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Homes for Heroes Act of 2013 (H.R. 384).

This bill would establish within HUD a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs to ensure veterans receive fair access to housing and homeless assistance programs and serve as a HUD liaison to the VA.

I am fully committed to strengthening the benefits and fulfilling the obligations a grateful nation owes to its veterans.

The men and women of our Armed Forces unselfishly answer the call of duty to defend our freedom. Congress has a moral obligation to support their returns with housing and other necessities.

I am proud to live in a country that has such brave men and women, and a country where citizens recognize and appreciate the sacrifices our military makes to defend us. I urge my colleagues to stand with our Veterans and support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 384, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1310

HILL CREEK CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 356) to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 356

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hill Creek Cultural Preservation and Energy Development Act".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.

The Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes", approved March 11, 1948

(62 Stat. 72), as amended by the Act entitled "An Act to amend the Act extending the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah so as to authorize such State to exchange certain mineral lands for other lands mineral in character" approved August 9, 1955, (69 Stat. 544), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 5. In order to further clarify authorizations under this Act, the State of Utah is hereby authorized to relinquish to the United States, for the benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, State school trust or other State-owned subsurface mineral lands located beneath the surface estate delineated in Public Law 440 (approved March 11, 1948) and south of the border between Grand County, Utah, and Uintah County, Utah, and select in lieu of such relinquished lands, on an acre-for-acre basis, any subsurface mineral lands of the United States located beneath the surface estate delineated in Public Law 440 (approved March 11, 1948) and north of the border between Grand County, Utah, and Uintah County, Utah, subject to the following conditions:

"(1) RESERVATION BY UNITED STATES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall reserve an overriding interest in that portion of the mineral estate comprised of minerals subject to leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 171 et seq.) in any mineral lands conveyed to the State.

"(2) EXTENT OF OVERRIDING INTEREST.—The overriding interest reserved by the United States under paragraph (1) shall consist of—

"(A) 50 percent of any bonus bid or other payment received by the State as consideration for securing any lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

"(B) 50 percent of any rental or other payments received by the State as consideration for the lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

"(C) a 6.25 percent overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of oil and gas production under any lease or authorization to develop such oil and gas resources; and

"(D) an overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of production of such minerals other than oil and gas, equal to 50 percent of the royalty rate established by the Secretary of the Interior by regulation as of October 1, 2011.

"(3) RESERVATION BY STATE OF UTAH.—The State of Utah shall reserve, for the benefit of its State school trust, an overriding interest in that portion of the mineral estate comprised of minerals subject to leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) in any mineral lands relinquished by the State to the United States.

"(4) EXTENT OF OVERRIDING INTEREST.—The overriding interest reserved by the State under paragraph (3) shall consist of—

"(A) 50 percent of any bonus bid or other payment received by the United States as consideration for securing any lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources on the relinquished lands;

"(B) 50 percent of any rental or other payments received by the United States as consideration for the lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

"(C) a 6.25 percent overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of oil and gas production under any lease or authorization to develop such oil and gas resources; and

"(D) an overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of production of such minerals other than oil and gas, equal to 50 percent of the royalty rate established by the Secretary of the Interior by regulation as of October 1, 2011.

"(5) NO OBLIGATION TO LEASE.—Neither the United States nor the State shall be obli-

gated to lease or otherwise develop oil and gas resources in which the other party retains an overriding interest under this section.

"(6) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the State and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation to facilitate the relinquishment and selection of lands to be conveyed under this section, and the administration of the overriding interests reserved hereunder."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 356 is called the Hill Creek Cultural Preservation and Energy Development Act, and it's to promote economic development within the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation and to increase funding for public education within the State of Utah, as well as to protect some culturally and environmentally sensitive lands that are within that particular reservation.

This is a bipartisan bill. It's supported by the entire Utah congressional delegation, the oil and gas industry, the Ute Tribe, the Wilderness Society. Actually, everybody with an IQ over 7 is in support of it. It's a non-controversial measure that will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to resolve a decades-old land tenure issue in a manner that's supported by all parties.

In 1948, Congress extended the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, surrounding about 18,000 acres of school trust lands and mineral leases that were within that portion. In 1955, Congress attempted to solve the dispute amongst some of these lands, and actually failed in doing so. So the Ute Tribe has long protected the southern portion of this Hill Creek area for cultural and environmental reasons. It's also in an area that's known as the Book Cliffs, which is one of the most remote and rugged places within the State of Utah.

The Utah School Institutional Trust Lands Administration, or SITLA, which manages the school lands in Utah, has a constitutional mandate to generate income from trust lands to fund the public education.

So, to achieve the desires of the State, for funding education, and the Tribe, to promote their cultural areas, both parties have worked together in a